



Spike

Posts: 45

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Shinge Roshi wrote:

Dear Zen Studies Society Sangha,

So many of you have written beautiful cards and emails and have phoned regarding my health. Please know that I am grateful for your concern and your chanting, and it has helped a lot. I have taken every imaginable test, and the results are very encouraging: no sign of stroke, my heart is functioning fine now, and the congestion in my lungs has cleared. After a few days' rest, I was able to lead the three-day summer sesshin at Hoen-ji, and I am now looking forward to O-Bon, which is such a deeply meaningful ceremony for all of us.

As I know you all know, sitting and sharing the Dharma is incomparably the best way to heal. At the same time, I am learning to listen to my body, and to yield when rest is needed. This Mind is unlimited, but our bodies are not. I will do my best to model this for all of us.

We are really fortunate in having a great group of residents at Dai Bosatsu Zendo, three of whom will begin 1,000-days training as monks at the end of Golden Wind Sesshin. All who did spring kessei are returning, and several new kessei students will be joining us in September, bringing our total to about fifteen.

Our expanded board of directors benefited tremendously from a 12-hour training in non-profit best practices on July 8 with a professional board facilitator from An Olive Branch. The board will be meeting once a month for the next six months to work on a host of important topics identified at that meeting, and we'll keep you informed as our work unfolds.

We had a wonderful first annual Family Weekend in July, held in the spirit of Nyogen Senzaki's Mentorgarten. Including residents, there were around 65 of us, ranging in age from a few months to over 70 years old. The lake, of course, was a tremendous draw from catching and releasing newts to swimming, boating, and walking the trail. Quite a few parents and children did zazen together in the Beecher House zendo, and Zudi Fuller, who turned 5 that weekend, joined us for morning service (along with Nyozan, her father). There were merry outdoor meals prepared by Yusen and her helpers, including s'mores over hibachi coals. A troupe of children followed Carlos up to hear the evening konsho. Everyone made kites with dragon imagery and then raced along the lawn letting them soar. For more on the Family Weekend and photographs, click here.

The following weekend we were hosts for both a yoga group and Nyogetsu Ronnie Seldin's Shakuhachi retreat. Nyogetsu treated everyone to a beautiful concert on Saturday night.

Last weekend, a large AA group met here. With their enthusiasm and deep introspection into their own path, they were an inspiration to all. Several members of the group helped with O-Bon preparations, and will return to help out during that event. Their support is very much appreciated.

Many Sangha members and delightful newcomers have given so generously of their time and energy to help make all these events possible, and we are very grateful to everyone. With enthusiasm, attentiveness, and a dynamic spirit, let us continue!

Gassho,

Shinge Roshi